

Rev. Dan Foster House  
Weathersfield Center, Town of  
Weathersfield  
Perkinsville Vicinity  
Windsor County  
Vermont

HABS No. VT-40

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
142 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## REV. DAN FOSTER HOUSE

Location: Weathersfield Center, Town of Weathersfield,  
Perkinsville Vicinity, Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Weathersfield Historical Society and Weathersfield  
Congregational Church, jointly.

Present Occupant: Weathersfield Historical Society and the minister of the  
Weathersfield Congregational Church.

Present Use: Historical society house and church parsonage.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: An early Weathersfield house, typical of the area.  
The house is maintained by the local historical  
society and houses their collections on local history.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Builder and date of erection: The structure was built by the Weathersfield Congregational church as a parsonage for its first settled minister, Rev. Dan Foster, in 1785.
2. References:
  - a. Bronze tablet on the Weathersfield Congregational Church and Town Hall.
  - b. Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes - North (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1956).

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Rev. Dan Foster, for whom the Historical Society has named the house, was the first settled minister in Weathersfield from 1783 to 1793 and the first occupant of the house.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and Henry C. Edwards,  
Architects, National Park Service  
September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: An early house typical of the area with collections of the Weathersfield Historical Society on local history and with an unusual kitchen fireplace.
2. Condition of Fabric: The house is sound and well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block, typical five bay frame rectangular structure two stories high. One and one-half story ell to the rear plus one story attached carriage shed.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame, clapboard siding.
4. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, one in main block, one in ell.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Front entrance, six panel door with fan light set in moulded frame. Two side entrances, four panel doors with transom light set in unrelieved frames.
  - b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 light double hung windows in main block. Shutters divided into upper and lower parts with fixed louvers in the upper parts and adjustable louvers in the lower parts. 9/9 light double hung windows in ell.
6. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, asphalt shingle covering.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves. Crown and bed moulds on main block only.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Central hall with a large room to either side, kitchen in ell to the rear. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement.
2. Stairways: One front and one back stairway.
3. Flooring: Wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doors and trim: Paneled wood doors. Moulded wood trim.
6. Hardware: Mostly original wrought iron hardware.
7. Lighting: Electric.

8. Heating: Fireplaces supplemented with stoves including an early soap stone stove.
9. Kitchen fireplace located in separate room behind the kitchen in the shed attached to the rear of the ell. Fireplace has typical cauldron and oven, but has unusual proportions and massing.

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D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faces east on the brow of a high hill overlooking many miles of the Black River Valley. Rural setting on a country road with no near neighbors.
2. Landscaping: Informal, lawn trees and shrubs.

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